



PUBLIC HEALTH

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Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders

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November 14, 2005

1. Prevalence Studies on Autism

- Review of studies from 1966 - 1998
- Olmstead County, Minn
- CA Dept of Developmental Disabilities
- Metropolitan Atlanta Developmental Disabilities Program
- Brick Autism Project

2. Survey and IDEA enrollment data

3. Future plans

Review of 23 studies

- Covered twelve countries
- Total study population of 4.2 million
- 1,533 cases of autism

Review of 23 studies (cont'd)

Years	# studies	Range	Median
1966-1979	4	0.7 - 4.8	4.2/10,000
1980 - 1989	11	1.0 - 15.5	4.5/10,000
1990 - 1999	8	4.9 - 21.1	8.3/10,000
Overall	23	0.7 - 21.1	5.2/10,000
Average Male/Female ratio			3.8/1

Review of 23 studies (cont'd)

- Studies used a variety of assessment criteria
 - Reflected historical changes in classification systems
- Higher prevalence in recent studies due to..
 - Broadening of diagnostic concept
 - Improvement in assessment tools
 - Increased recognition

Olmstead County, Minnesota

- Case definition - County residents 21 yrs or younger with Autism, PDD-NOS or Asperger's
- Time period - 1976 - 1997
- Sources - Mayo Clinic charts
- Results (age-adjusted)
 - 1980 - 1983 5.5/100,000
 - 1984 - 1987 7.9/100,000
 - 1988 - 1991 11.8/100,000 (DSM-III-R)
 - 1992 - 1994 29.4/100,000 (IDEA)
 - 1995 - 1997 44.9/100,000 (DSM-IV)

CA Dept of Developmental Disabilities

- Case definition - Children born in California during timeframe; diagnosed with Autism or Mental retardation (unknown cause) and served by CDD
- Time period - 1987 - 1999
- Source - CDD files

		Autism	MR
• Results -	1987	5.8/10,000	28.8/10,000
	1994	14.9/10,000	19.5/10,000

CA Dept of Developmental Disabilities (cont'd)

- Increased risk associated with
 - Male (4.3)
 - Multiple births (1.8)
 - Increasing maternal age
 - Increasing maternal education

Metropolitan Atlanta

- Case definition
 - Age 3-10 years with Autism, PDD-NOS or Asperger's in Atlanta Metro area
- Time period
 - 1996
- Sources
 - Schools, DD facilities, Parent-to-Parent, medical providers, hospitals
- Results
 - Overall: 3.4/1,000
 - Age 3: 1.9/1,000
 - Age 4: 3 /1,000 (app)
 - Age 5-8: 4 /1,000 (app)
 - Similar rates by race
 - Male/Female Ratio 4/1

Brick Township, New Jersey

- Case definition
 - Age 3-10 yrs with Autism, PDD-NOS or Asperger's
- Time period
 - 1998
- Sources
 - Special education records, private providers, lists from parents, self-referral
- Results
 - Overall: 6.7/1,000
 - Ages 3-5 yrs: 7.8/1,000
 - Ages 6-10 yrs: 6.1/1,000
 - Similar rates by race
 - Male/Female Ratio 3.7/1

2. Comparing Washington to US

- National Survey of Children's Health
 - Rate (per 1,000)
 - WA 6.7 (3,3, 13.4)
 - US 4.5 (3,9, 5.3)
 - Male/Female ratio
 - WA 2.2
 - US 3.7

Autism Cases Served by IDEA

School Year	W A	U S
2003-04	2,824 (2.6%)	- - -
2002-03	2,344 (2.1%)	- - -
2001-02	1,972 (1.8%)	97,847 (1.7%)
2000-01	1,620 (1.5%)	78,717 (1.4%)
1999-00	1,346 (1.3%)	65,396 (1.2%)
1998-99	957 (0.9%)	53,561 (1.0%)
1997-98	689 (0.7%)	42,487 (0.8%)
1996-97	444 (0.5%)	34,082 (0.7%)
1995-96	263 (0.3%)	28,813 (0.6%)

3. Future Plans

- In 2004, State BOH made Autism Spectrum Disorders a notifiable condition
- Held discussions re:OSPI participation/ FERPA
- CDC Grants (EH Tracking/Autism)

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